

Recent Activities

In this section, we will provide a glimpse of some key recent Toronto SPIN events and activities.

October Networking Event

For the first time in our history, Toronto SPIN hosted an evening networking event on Thursday, October 2, 2008. About 30 people including sponsors, volunteers and members of our software process improvement community gathered at the Boston Pizza at Yonge & Sheppard for good food, drinks and company.



Jenna Munro & Tony Timbol

During the event, we expressed many thanks to our sponsors, David Consulting Group and Resultel Technologies. We also took this opportunity to recognize the many volunteers who have committed their time and expertise to TSPIN over the years. In keeping with our mission of fostering



Doris Concepcion

knowledge-sharing, we included a really fun trivia game as well

Feedback from the event has been excellent. Encouraged by the success of this event, we will be planning other similar activities for the coming year to bring our community together in social settings.

Jenna Munro
TSPIN Networking Event Manager

DCG at the TSPIN Networking Event

When we recently became the Diamond Sponsor for the SPIN, we looked forward to supporting and getting to know the local technology community.



Tom Cagley, Rekha Kulshreshtha & Mike Harris

We were thrilled to experience not only that, but also the warmth and professionalism of SPIN members/volunteers at the recent Networking event.

Tom Cagley, Mike Harris and Tony Timbol, from DCG, all met some wonderful people over food and drink and look forward to participating at future events.

Tony Timbol
Director of Marketing, David Consulting Group

Many Thanks to our Door Prize Donors!!!

What fun is a Networking Event without door prizes? We were thrilled with the generosity of our door prize donors who reached out to us and contributed.

Many many thanks to all our door prize donors - we had a lot of delighted attendees who won fabulous door prizes thanks to the contributions.

The block contains several logos: DCG (David Consulting Group), GEMUP CONSULTING INC. with the tagline 'Take the higher ground', Putting Edge Fun Cental, THE FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY, Macallan, and The Malt.

What SPIN Knows

How do you confound a group of high-tech professionals? Give them a quiz, with no access to Google!

One of the highlights of the October networking event was the trivia game. Everyone broke out into teams to answer questions on CMMI, SPIN Facts, Software Development, and some other “just for fun” questions. There was only one rule: No Googling!

In the end, the competition was pretty close, with two teams scoring almost identically for the victory. It was also a highly educational experience for me, from an instructional



Vivienne Suen

design point of view. For example, if I ever have to put together a trivia game again, I will refrain from asking IT professionals to “Name as many programming languages as you can” (one team got up to 24 languages, and was entering a lively debate over whether or not scripting languages count, before realizing they still had half of the quiz to finish!).

I also learned a lot from some of the answers. For example, I knew – from looking it up on the SEI web site earlier that week – that the CMMI Constellations are the CMMI-DEV, CMMI-ACQ, and CMMI-SVC. But I’d never realized that they are also sometimes known as the CMMI Big Dipper, Little Dipper, and Orion!

Similarly, SCAMPI is more esoterically known as “a large shrimp”.

However, my favorite answer of the night – and if we’d thought to award a “Funniest Answer” prize, this would have taken it – was a definition of Moore’s Law



Sue Muckle

that I’d never heard of before. Typically, Moore’s Law is understood to be the trend in computing technology, whereby the computing power of a single integrated

circuit doubles every two years. However, it is apparently a little-known fact that Moore must have been a distant relative to Murphy: “Whatever can go wrong with computers, will go wrong.”

That’s what keeps us all in business, right?

Vivienne Suen

TSPIN Communications Sub-Committee

Toronto ‘SPINner’ Online

Did you know that this newsletter and past issues of this monthly newsletter are available online at <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/press.shtml>?

Victoria Johnston

TSPIN Communication Sub-Committee Lead



Introducing the Monthly TSPIN Contest

So far, we’ve mostly been using this monthly newsletter as a vehicle of reaching out to our members with information about what is going on.

We’d like to make this communication a little more interactive and fun! Each month, we’re going to have some kind of contest where you, our readers, can all participate. The solution of the contest will only be known by the editor so everybody, including current TSPIN volunteers can participate.

Rekha Kulshreshtha

TSPIN Newsletter Editor

TSPIN Contest of the Month

QUESTION: How many Process Areas are there in the CMMI-DEV?

YOU WIN!

Submit your answer via email, including your name and official mailing address to rehhak@ca.ibm.com by November 30, 2008.

All correct entries will be collected and one winner will be randomly drawn. The contest prize will be mailed via Canada Post to the winner. Winners will be announced in the next monthly newsletter.

Upcoming Activities

In this section, we will highlight a bit about upcoming events. Stay tuned, as more information about these



events and activities becomes available. Please register, if you plan on attending an event, as we use registration information as a basis for refreshment orders.

November 2008 Event

On November 6th, Toronto SPIN will be holding the final event for this year.

Erika Vintan and Norocel Popa from Bank of Montreal will be presenting on "Software Measurements: Reports and Modeling".

This presentation describes how the measurements process was rolled out in a financial institution that became a strong CMMI Level 4 organization using Measurements and Analysis to be proactive in influencing decisions.

To register for this event, please go to <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/events.shtml>. We hope to see you there.

Rekha Kulshreshtha

TSPIN November 2008 Event Manager

Software Automation – Call for Speakers

Toronto SPIN is looking for speakers for an upcoming event on the topic of process automation. If you have expertise in this area and are interested in presenting, please submit your biography and presentation abstract to programs@torontospin.com.

Please see the topic summary below as well as the speaker guidelines.

Topic Summary: Software process automation provides computer-based real-time support and guidance for the enactment of software development processes. Process automation is implemented through a process-centered environment that may include:

- a process definition/enactment language,
- mechanisms for process enactment,
- tool invocation mechanisms,
- support for communications (tools and people),
- debugging capabilities,
- applications tools (metrics project management etc.),

- business process automation.
Area of expertise may include:
 - developers of software process automation products
 - developers of automated processes
 - researchers in software process automation
 - transition agents supporting the introduction of automation
 - end-users of software process automation
 - trainers in the use software process automation products and software processes
 - people involved with the practical application of software process automation

We are looking for speakers who will share their experiences with process automation. Speakers should also provide their perspective with the practical application of software process automation in real-world situations. The intention of the presentations shall not be centered on specific tools advertisement but in the process automation in the context of process improvement and best practices.



Speaker Guidelines:

Biographies must be no longer than 100 words and abstracts must be no longer than 200 words. Biographies and abstracts must be submitted to the Program Subcommittee at programs@torontospin.com by November 30, 2008.

Ruben Montero

TSPIN Program Sub-Committee Lead

Other Activities in the Area

In this section, we share information about other upcoming activities in the area that may be of interest to our members. The focus is on activities that are aligned with Toronto SPIN's mission and mandate.

CIPS IT Meeting

CIPS is holding a meeting on Monday, November 17th, 2008 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm on "Introduction to Business Process Improvement (BPI) and Six Sigma".

Peter Plenkiewicz, President of PMQG Solution will present at this session, which will be the continuation of earlier session on Six Sigma held in September.

The event will be held at the Metro Hall on the 3rd Floor in Room #302.

If you plan to attend, please register online at <http://itmanagementnovsession.eventbrite.com>.

Syed M. Ali
Chair - IT Management SIG

What's Goin' On

Check out the following learning opportunities:

- November 17, 2008 – CIPS IT Meeting (<http://itmanagementnovsession.eventbrite.com>)
- March 23–26, 2009 – SEPG North America 2009 in San Jose, California (www.sei.cmu.edu/sep/na2009/program.html).
- May 16–24, 2009 – International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE) 2009 in Vancouver, Canada (<http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/events/icse2009>)
- June 9-12, 2009 – SEPG Europe 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic (<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/sep/europe/2009/>)

News from SEI



We often get valuable information sent to us by Shane McGraw of SEI. Shane coordinates collaboration across all SPINs around the world. As we see information that

would be valuable to our community, we will include it in this section.

SEI's Fall SPIN Newsletter

The Fall 2008 edition of the SPIN Newsletter is now available at <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/resources.shtml>.

In this edition, the "SPIN Spotlight" interview features the Netherlands SPIN. We take a look at how they have changed over time. We take a look at their 11-year history and how their chapter is run. The "Feature Article," is a publication by the Software Engineering Institute's Palma Buttles-Valdez and Gian Wemyss. They provide an overview of the People Capability Maturity Model (P-CMM) and how to put it to use for you.

If you have ideas for newsletter articles or want your SPIN featured please let me know. I welcome any and all feedback!

SEPG Europe – Call for Abstracts and Call for Reviewers

The Call for Abstracts and Call for Reviewers is now open for SEPG Europe 2009. The conference takes place June 9-12, 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. For details on how to sign up please see: <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/sep/europe/2009/>.

SEI Webinars & SPIN Wiki

Since July 2008, the SEI has been hosting a twice-monthly webinar series that will allow anyone, from any location, to log in and hear a presentation by an SEI staff member on existing research or technologies, as well as view accompanying slides.

For more information on these webinars go to <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/collaborating/spins/webinars.html>. Each presentation will be recorded and made available on the SPIN Wiki for playback at any time. You do not need to be a member of a SPIN to register for the Wiki, which can be accessed at <http://seispin.wikispaces.com>.

If you would like to register for a particular presentation or have any questions, please contact me at spin@sei.cmu.edu or 412-268-2358.

Shane McGraw
SEI SPIN Coordinator

Toronto SPIN Volunteer Team

Toronto SPIN would not exist without the support of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to all our volunteers to contribute their time to making Toronto SPIN the success that it is today.

Welcome to our newest recruits!

We are delighted to welcome two new recruits this month to the Toronto SPIN volunteer team.

Lynne McCombes, is a Regional Sales Manager with MKS. Lynne has been a Toronto SPIN member for some time and will now join the Program and Membership Sub-Committees. I guess our content in the last newsletter describing plans for transforming the Membership Program drew her attention.



Networking Event in Action!!!

Cristina Dumitrescu, is a software developer working with TUCOWS (The Ultimate Collection of Winsock Software) and will be joining the Web Team.

Welcome to the team, Lynne and Cristina!

Our Current Volunteer Team

Toronto SPIN would not be operational without the support of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to all our volunteers.

Name	Company
TSPIN Steering Committee Members	
Doris Concepcion	IBM Canada Ltd.
Andrew Gurudata	Telus Mobility
Sanford Hersh	Computer Elations Inc.
Rekha Kulshreshtha	IBM Canada Ltd.
Susan Muckle	Ontario Energy Board
Vivienne Suen	IBM Canada Ltd.
Winifred Menezes	Freya Consulting Ltd.
Erika Vintan	Bank of Montreal
Kirk Zapa	KayCee Inc.
Volunteer Team Members	
Cristina Dumitrescu	TUCOWS
Emmanuel Gonnet	Gem Up Consulting
Mariam Hashmi	IBM Canada Ltd.
Victoria Johnston	IBM Canada Ltd.
Orhan Kalayci	eHealth Ontario
Renay Langdon	eHealth Ontario
Joyce MacDonald	Gregory Consulting Ltd.
Lynne McCombes	MKS
Ruben Montero	IBM Canada Ltd.
Jenna Munro	IBM Canada Ltd.
Alan Osborne	Putting Edge Fun Centers
Sachin Quadros	IBM Canada Ltd.
Venkat Ramaseshan	IBM Canada Ltd.
Hamid Yazdanpanah	IBM Canada Ltd.
Juana Zegarra	CGI Inc.

Rekha Kulshreshtha
TSPIN Volunteer Sub-Committee Lead